IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method in a data processing system having a program in memory, the method performed by the program comprising the steps of:

asynchronously receiving a plurality of data instances, each data instance having one of a plurality of formats; and

providing a datatype of a first format for each data instance, each datatype having ~~a metadata in the first format that describes the respective data instance and~~ a reference in the first format to the respective data instance, the data instances being maintained separately from the datatypes.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

publishing one of the plurality of datatypes, wherein the respective data instance is not published with the datatype.

3. (canceled).

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference to the data is a pointer.

5. (previously presented) A tangible computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause a program in a data processing medium to perform a method comprising the steps of:

asynchronously receiving a plurality of data instances, each data instance having one of a plurality of formats; and

providing a datatype of a first format for each data instance, each datatype having a metadata in the first format that describes the respective data instance and a reference in the first format to the respective data instance, the data instances being maintained separately from the datatypes.

6. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

publishing one of the plurality of datatypes, wherein the respective data instance is not published with the datatype.

7. (canceled).

8. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the reference to the data is a pointer.

9. (original) A data processing system comprising:

a memory having a program that asynchronously receives a plurality of data instances, each data instance having one of a plurality of formats, and provides a datatype of a first format for each data instance, each datatype having a metadata in the first format that describes the respective data instance and a reference in the first format to the respective data instance, the data instances being maintained separately from the datatypes; and

a processing unit that runs the program.

10. (original) A data processing system comprising:

means for asynchronously receiving a plurality of data instances, each data instance having one of a plurality of formats; and

means for providing datatype of a first format for each data instance, each datatype having a metadata in the first format that describes the respective data instance and a reference in the first format to the respective data instance, the data instances being maintained separately from the datatypes.